

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 10025672WO01	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/JP2006/306992	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/03/2006	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 28/03/2005
Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No. III)

4. With regard to the title,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1
☒ as suggested by the applicant
☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention
 b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/JP2006/306992

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H03B7/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

H03B H03J H01P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 617 104 A (DAS ET AL) 1 April 1997 (1997-04-01) column 9, lines 21-33	1,2,5-7
Y	figure 14	8
Y	EP 0 288 135 A (UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY) 26 October 1988 (1988-10-26) abstract; figure 2	8
	----- -/--	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 June 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/07/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Robinson, V

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/JP2006/306992

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	UTSUMI Y ET AL: "Dielectric properties of microstrip-line adaptive liquid crystal devices" ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS IN JAPAN, PART 2 (ELECTRONICS) SCRIPTA TECHNICA USA, vol. 87, no. 10, 2004, pages 13-24, XP002385402 ISSN: 8756-663X	1,2,5
Y	the whole document	6-8
Y	US 2003/122628 A1 (AIKAWA MASAYOSHI ET AL) 3 July 2003 (2003-07-03) cited in the application	6,7
A	paragraphs [0060] - [0065]; figures 3a-3c, 4a-4c	1-5,8
X	KUKI T ET AL: "Design of a microwave variable delay line using liquid crystal, and a study of its insertion loss" ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS IN JAPAN, PART 2 (ELECTRONICS) SCRIPTA TECHNICA USA, vol. 85, no. 2, 2002, pages 36-42, XP002385403 ISSN: 8756-663X	1,2,5
Y	the whole document	6-8
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 05, 12 May 2003 (2003-05-12) & JP 2003 017912 A (NIPPON HOSO KYOKAI <NHK>), 17 January 2003 (2003-01-17)	1,5
Y	abstract; figure 1	6-8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/JP2006/306992

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5617104	A	01-04-1997	NONE	
EP 0288135	A	26-10-1988	DE 3867686 D1 GB 2202947 A NO 881005 A US 4829233 A	27-02-1992 05-10-1988 12-09-1988 09-05-1989
US 2003122628	A1	03-07-2003	JP 2003204223 A	18-07-2003
JP 2003017912	A	17-01-2003	NONE	